

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, The South Dakota National Guard, 109<sup>th</sup> Engineer Regiment, was ordered into federal service on February 10, 1941, under Presidential Order 8635, as part of the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; and,

*Whereas*, The unit trained at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, for 1 year prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, at which time they were transferred to Fort Dix, New Jersey, where the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was reorganized and the Regiment became the 109<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion with many of the original members transferring to other units; and,

*Whereas*, The Battalion reached Belfast, Ireland, aboard the transport, Mexico, on April 29, 1942, where they trained for the war in North Africa; and,

*Whereas*, In April 1943, the Division assaulted Hill 609, and captured it on May 1, to avenge the tragic loss of more than 1,000 American troops at Tunisia, and continued to recorded assaults and battles over the next 2 years prior to May 2, 1945, when the Germans surrendered in Italy; and,

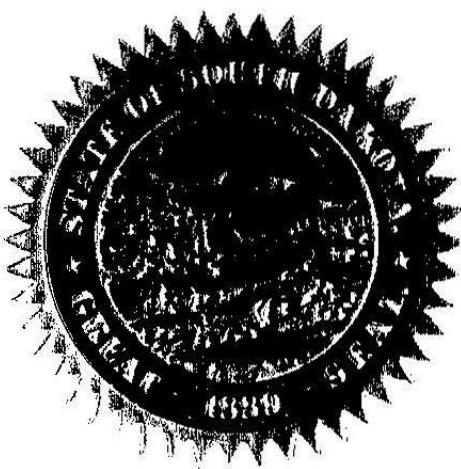
*Whereas*, The 109<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion registered nearly 600 days in the combat zone, the longest period of time for any American unit in World War II, and its members proudly wore the shoulder patch of the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, nicknamed the Red Bull Division; and,

*Whereas*, It is fitting and proper as Governor to commend these World War II veterans for their dedicated and outstanding service, which reflects the proud heritage of individual and patriotic accomplishments that are so much a way of life in the great state of South Dakota:

**Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds**, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 12, 2009, as

## **109<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER BATTALION DAY**

in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Ninth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

  
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

  
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State